

1
Frederick II. K. of P. present
to

ROYAL MATINS,

OR,

PRUSSIA'S PUBLIC CONFESSION;

IN FIVE MORNINGS.

FROM THE FRENCH.

By a Gentleman of the University of Cambridge.

Call His Name

. *Maher-shalal-hash-baz.*

. *Engaged in Spoils and eager for the Prey.*

C A M B R I D G E,

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ROYAL

ROYAL MATINS.

THE FIRST MORNING.

Of our Pedigree.

THE first Dawnings of sovereign Dominion have been observed to appear in Times of public Disorder, and among Nations barbarous and unpoliced. The chief Ministers of several independent States, by throwing off the Yoke, soon became possessed of Power sufficient to make even their Masters tremble. Honours were then, through Fear, conferred upon them, but did not meet with any suitable Returns: the Truth was, that during this Struggle, those who in Quality of Ministers had been entrusted with the Affairs of Government, were unwilling to be removed: and by wearing for a Time the Mask of Obedience, they at last became them-

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2 R O Y A L M A T I N S.

felves invested with supreme Authority. Amongst the number of these bold Adventurers, many may be pointed out as Principals, in laying the Foundation of the greatest Monarchies: nor can we be said to overshoot the Mark in affirming, that all Emperors, Kings, and sovereign Powers are indebted to such, for the Dominions they now possess. The Case is indisputable with Respect to Ourselves. I see you begin to blush. I shall forgive you this once, but take Care not to act like a Child for the future: lay it down as a Maxim, once for all, that none ever refused a Kingdom, when he might have accepted it; nor ever made the least Scruple or Complaint, till he was obliged to give it up.

Tassillon de Hohenzollern was the first of our Ancestors who had acquired some of the Rights of Sovereignty over the Countries he possessed: the 13th of his Descendants was Count of Nuremberg; the 25th Elector of Brandenburg; and the 37th, King of Prussia. Our Family, like all others, have had their Achilles', their Ciceroes, their Nestors, their Fools and Blockheads, their learned Ladies, their cruel Step-Mothers; and, doubtless, their

their Women of Galantry too: it is likewise often aggrandized by a peculiar Kind of Right, never to be found but amongst a People who are happily circumstanced, or remarkably courageous: for we may observe in the order of our Successions, those of Convenience, of Expectation, and Protection. From *Tassillon* to the grand Elector, we have led merely a vegetable Life. There was at that Time, within the Empire, not less than fifty Princes in nothing our Inferiours: we were then, to speak with Propriety, only a Branch of the great Lustre of *Allemagne*. William the Great, by his glorious Exploits, raised us above every Competitor; and in the Year 1701 (no vast while ago) Vanity did so far prevail with my Grandfather, as to place upon his Head a Regal Crown: and it is from this Moment we ought to fix the Date of our real Existence; since it has secured to us the Rank and Dignity of a King, as well as the Means of treating-with all the Powers of the World upon equal Terms.

Were we to reckon up the Virtues of our Ancestors; it would be easily seen, that it is not to such Advantages this House can owe

it's Greatness. Of the Princes amongst us, there are few who have not managed their Affairs extremely ill: nothing, however, can be done without paying a strict Attention to the most trifling Circumstances; for it is upon such that the greatest Matters very often depend. I cannot here forbear observing to you, that the first Diadem in the Family was conferred upon one, whose Head was stuffed with the most despicable Trifles, and whose Body was bent into a thousand Distortions. But I plainly see, my dear Nephew, that I greatly embarrass you, in this Account of our Extraction. There are People who pretend that this Count of *Hobenzollern* was descended from some great Family; but, to speak Truth, no one has appeared in the World with fewer Titles. As to any Thing farther, all I can say is, that for these many Years, we have been looked upon as Gentlemen: and such may we long continue!

The Situation of my Kingdom.

I have not much to boast of in this Respect: and to convince you of it; only cast your Eyes
upon

upon the Map. You will soon see that the chief Parts of my Dominions lie so detached, as not to contribute towards their mutual Support. I have no Rivers which run entirely through my Provinces; one or two glide along their Boundaries, but can scarcely be said to enter them.

The Soil.

The first grand Division of my States lies wholly unenclosed: the second consists in Woods, Rivers, and Marshes; and the third, though cultivated, yields neither Wine, Olives, nor Mulberries. All its Fruits and Pulse are raised only by Dint of Care, and but a very little is brought to Perfection at last. I have only a few Districts, where the Crops of Rye and Wheat are tolerably good.

The Manners of the Inhabitants.

I do not very well know what to say on this Point, since my Kingdom, as to Inhabitants, is but a Kind of Patch-work: all I can tell you for certain is, that my Subjects are in general brave, and stout; not over dainty, but very great Tiplers; Tyrants on their own Estates,

6 ROYAL MATINS.

Estates, and Slaves at my Disposal; insipid Lovers and peevish Husbands: they have a strange Coldness in their Composition, which I take to be no better at the Bottom than downright Stupidity: they are knowing in the Law; indifferent Philosophers, bad Poets, and worse Orators: affect great Simplicity in their Dress; yet think themselves in the Pink of the Mode, with their Hair in a small Bag and a large Hat over it; Boots as high as their Middle; a little Stick in their Hand; their Waistcoat extremely short, with a Coat down to their Heels. As to the married Women they are almost all of them fine, and plump; and make excellent Nurses: they have a vast Sweetness; are great Lovers of Economy, and true enough to their Husbands. For the unmarried ones, they enjoy all the Privileges of the polite World: and so far am I from being displeased with their Conduct, that I endeavour in these my Memoirs to excuse their Foibles. It is necessary to leave the dear Creatures wholly at their Ease, in order to avoid such vicious Practices, as may privately indeed conduce to their Amusement, yet are still of the highest Disadvantage to the State:

nay,

may, for their better Encouragement, I have taken care in my Army, that Preference should be given to the Fruit of their Amours; and if a Boy be so happy as to call an Officer his Father, I'll make him an Ensign, and perhaps an Officer before his Turn.

THE SECOND MORNING.

Of Religion.

IT is an indisputable Maxim with every sober Man, that Religion is absolutely necessary to a State: in a King it is unpardonable, were his Subjects allow'd either to ridicule or discountenance it; yet, in a King, it is unwise to have a Grain himself. Observe well, my dear Nephew, what I am now going to say: There is nothing tyrannizes so much, both over the Understanding and the Heart as Religion, which is an Enemy to the Passions, and utterly inconsistent with those exalted Notions of true Policy that ought always to fill

fill the Breast of every Monarch. The Religion of a Prince is his own proper Interest, and his Glory : He should be excused by the State from acknowledging any other. He may still notwithstanding preserve a transient Outside, were it only for their Amusement who surround and observe him.

Was he to fear GOD, or rather, to imitate the Cant of Priests and Women, was he to fear the Devil, as Lewis the 14th did in his Dotage, he presently becomes either timid, or childish, and is then worthy to be dubbed a Capuchin. Can it be doubted whether we should seize the first favourable Opportunity of becoming Masters of a Province? An Army of Devils is instantly before your Eyes to defend it, and we are weak enough to imagine that such an Undertaking is a Piece of Injustice, and foolishly proportion the Degree of Punishment to the Greatness of our Offence. Are we on a Treaty with other Powers? Should we but for a Moment reflect that we are Christians ; the Game is gone, and we perpetually the Losers. War is a Kind of Mart, in which he who has the fewest Scruples always makes the surest Bargain ; nay, were
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Conscience, however lightly considered, the Business would presently be at an End. Indeed what honest Man could ever think of carrying on a War, who has not a Right to give Orders for the Permission of Plunder, and for the Destruction of the Enemy both by Fire and Sword ?

I do not say however that it would be proper to adopt either Impiety or Atheism ; but that our Conceptions of Things should be always answerable to the Rank we hold in Life. All the Popes, who have been blessed with common Sense, have entertained Sentiments of Religion best calculated for their own Advancement. It would be the Height of Folly in a Prince, was he to suffer himself to become miserable by an Attachment to those sordid Scruples, made only for the Vulgar. The best Means, moreover, of destroying the Seeds of Fanaticism in a State, is to put on the coldest Indifference possible for Matters of Religion. Believe me, my dear Nephew, the Holy Mother has her little Caprices, as a Woman : She is ever inconstant. Let true Philosophy be your Protectress : with her is every Comfort of Life ; she is Light and Strength, and

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like

like Nature inexhaustible. Each Dispute of Consequence upon Religion will then be quickly banished out of your Kingdom; since Parties are only founded, either on the Weakness of a Prince, or on that of his Ministers. One important Reflection I have to make is, that your Ancestors have taken the most prudent Measures on this Occasion: they have brought about such a Reformation as gives them an Air of true * *Methodism*, by filling their Purses. It is doubtless the best Alteration that could have happened in an Affair of this Kind: yet since there is scarcely any Thing more to be expected from it, and that it would be dangerous, at this Moment, to tread in their Steps; Toleration is the safest Expedient to rely on. Never lose Sight of this Principle, my dear Nephew, but continue to affirm, that throughout my Dominions every one has Liberty to worship GOD as he likes: for should you appear in the least Degree negligent as to this Point, it would prove the instant Ruin of your States; and this is the Reason why my Kingdom is thus crowded with so many different Sects. In certain Provinces the

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* d' Apôtre.

Reformed are in Possession of all the Employments; in others the Lutherans obtain the same Privileges. There are some in which the Catholics bear so great a Sway as not to suffer even the King to send more than one or two Protestant Deputies among them: and of all the ignorant and blind Fanatics I ever met with, I dare affirm the Papists to be the most violent, and, at the same Time, the most villainous. The Priests, in this extravagant Religion, are furious Bigots, who preach up Nothing but a blind Submission to their Decrees; and, in their Words of Command, vie with the most despotic Lords. They are a Set of Assassins, Extortioners, and Infringers of the public Peace; and whose Ambition cannot be expressed. Behold Rome! with what insolent Stupidity she dares still maintain her pretended Right over the Thrones of Princes. As for the Jews, they are a Pack of poor, pimping, pedling Rascals: yet, after all, they have not half the Hurt in them one has been taught to imagine. Rebuffed, hated, persecuted almost every where, they take Care for this to be exactly even with those who tolerate them, and make ample Amends for so great an Obliga-

tion by fleecing every Cully they can meet with on their Way.

As our Ancestors became Christians in the 9th Century to please the Emperors; Lutherans in the 15th, to seize the Patrimony of the Church; Reformed in the 16th, to humour the Dutch on Account of the Succession of Cleves; so we shall now become *Indifferent*, to maintain a perfect Tranquillity in our States. My Father had once contrived an excellent Scheme, but it did not succeed. He had engaged the President Laen to write him a little Treatise on Religion, that by these Means he might bring about an Union of the three Sects, by taking away the Distinctions peculiar to each. The President spoke but scurvily of the Pope, pronounced St. Joseph to be an unthinking simple Fellow, pulled St. Roche's Dog by the Ears, and took St. Anthony's Pig by the Tail. He did not so much as believe in the chaste Susannah: he looked upon St. Bernard and St. Dominic in the Light of Courtiers, equally base and undermining; and refused St. Francis de Sales the Title as a Saint. The eleven thousand Virgins had just the same Credit with him as all the Saints, and all the Martyrs

Martyrs of Loyola. As for Myſteries he agreed that it was unneceſſary ever to think of explaining them, but very neceſſary to put a good Conſtruction on the whole, and not to be too violently attached to the Words. In Regard to the Lutherans; it was on them he placed his chief Support, and wiſhed the Catholics would come to have a little of the Infidel in them, with Reſpect to the Court of Rome; but he pretended that the Lutherans would for the future leave off all Thoughts of ſo much Subtlety in Diſpute. He pretended likewise, after ſome Diſtinctions were removed, to prove that they were both very nearly the ſame. He believed that it would coſt him more Pains to reconcile the Calviniſts, becauſe they were more *hot-headed* than the Lutherans. One good Expedient, however, which he propoſed, was to have no Confefſor, at the Time of Communion, but GOD himſelf. He regarded the Worſhip of Images, as a Sort of Decoy for the People: and thought that every Clown ſhould have ſome darling Saint or other. For the Monks, he expelled them; being conſidered but as Enemies who ſhould be taxed very ſeverely; and for the Priests,

he gave them Leave to marry their Mistresses. This has made much Noise: the good Ladies took upon them to be greatly offended, and thought it worse than Sacrilege that their Mysteries should be thus rudely handled. If this Pamphlet had been properly relished, one would then have taken the necessary Steps to have had the Design by all Means put into Execution. I have not wholly laid it aside, my dear Nephew; but flatter myself with the Thoughts of having your Assistance in carrying it to Perfection.

This would be certainly a very useful Undertaking: it would be the Means of reducing all Mankind into one delightful Fraternity; of subjecting them to one common Law, the easiest and the best, that of living like Fathers and like Friends together: it would be the Means of shewing them the Necessity there is both to live and die in Peace; and of being happy only in the social Virtues. These Principles being once deeply inculcated into the Minds of the rising Generation; the whole World would be no more than one great Family; and not even the so much celebrated golden Age could boast of half the Happiness

I wish it may enjoy, and of which we shall unalterably partake. — Consider the Plan I have already laid down, in Order to compass so great a Design; I endeavour, as much as possible, in all the Writings which are published throughout my Kingdom, to instil an open Contempt for every Thing that has hitherto looked like a Reformation; and never lose even the slightest Occasion of penetrating into the ambitious Schemes which either the Court of Rome, her Priests, or her Ministers may have in View: by little and little I shall accustom my Subjects to think as I do; and, in the End, divest them of all their Prejudices.

But as it is proper to have some Kind of Worship, I intend, if I live long enough, to pitch upon a Man of Eloquence, who is to preach it up. I shall immediately put on a Frown of Persecution, but shall take by Degrees the Title of Defender, and zealously adopt his System. If you have a Mind I should speak out; the Thing is already done. Voltaire has composed the Preamble: and proves the Necessity of obliterating all that has been said till now upon Religion;—not a single Point being yet agreed on. The Founders of
each

each Sect are there delineated with that genuine Freedom, which is a Copy *only* of Truth itself. He has brought to Light some secret Memoirs, both of Popes, Bishops, Priests, and Ministers, which diffuse an uncommon Pleasantry and Humour through his Work, written in a Style so close and rapid, one has not Time to reflect; and, as an Author of complete Address, affects the most implicit Faith, even while he advances the most doubtful Principles. D'Alembert and Maupertuis have drawn the Outlines of this great Work: and have calculated the whole with so much Precision, as would induce one to believe they had taken the Pains to demonstrate it over to themselves, before they presumed to make the Attempt in Public. Rousseau has laboured these four Years to obviate all Objections. For my own Part, I am resolved to be foremost in mortifying all those illiterate Wretches who shall have the Impudence to oppose us: for this allied Army of Priests and Prelates are continually playing off their Artillery upon the Populace, who have neither Time nor Talents for Reflection. Pray see the Reason therefore, why in Countries
which

which swarm with Priests, the People are more ignorant and more unhappy, than in those where Protestants are established. Priests are, in short, like Soldiers, who do Mischief either from Habit, or for mere Pastime. Counting Arguments is to them but counting Beads; they have always fifty in a String at their Finger-Ends on each controverted Point; and can drop at least thirty uncommon Hints and Reflections on each Article in holy Writ. They are just now fully employed in proving that whatever comes out, in these Days, is an entire Fiction: *viz.*—That there never was upon Earth such a Place as Paradise;—That it would be degrading the DEITY could we be brought to believe He ever made a downright Simpleton in his own divine Image; and a Creature the most perfect an arrant Hussy: for after all they tell you, it was nothing but the Length of the Serpent's Tail that captivated Eve, and threw her Imagination into a frightful Discomposure. The Marquis d'Argens and Mr. Formey have concerted the proper Measures for a Council. I am to be their President; but without the least Pretence of assuming to my self one Ray of Divinity from

the Spirit, more than is afforded others. There shall be no more than one Minister belonging to each Sect, and four Deputies to each Province; two from the Nobility, and two from the Commons: as for the rest, both Priests, Monks, and Ministers in general, they shall one and all be excluded from having a Vote, as Persons who are privately interested in the Thing; and, that the Spirit may appear more publickly to preside in this Assembly; the whole shall be strictly conformable to the Rules of common Sense.

THE THIRD MORNING.

Of Justice.

WE owe our Subjects Justice, as they owe us Respect. I mean by this, my dear Nephew, that every Man should have strict Justice done him, and our own Subjects more especially, when it tends neither to subvert our Rights nor wound our Authority: for it
ought

ought not to hold any Proportion, much less to decide, between the Rights of the Monarch, and those of the Subject or the Slave: but should be allowed to determine in Cases of Judgment, or Matters of Right betwixt Man and Man. It is the Act only which can make us adored, But take great Care that this same Justice does not totally overthrow you. Place before your Eyes the first Charles led away to the Scaffold by Means of this Justice, which the People loudly and impetuously insisted on. For my own Part, I was born with more Ambition than to suffer either myself or my States to be subject to any of her Commands: and it is doubtless this Consideration only, which induced me to compile the *Frederician* Code. I know very well that I have dressed the good Lady up in a * Fardingale, but I was afraid lest she should be seen in this Disguise; as I could easily observe the great Influence she had among the People; and knew likewise on the contrary, that it was often in the Power of a skilful Prince to satisfy his own Ambition, while he renders himself adored by his Subjects.

* Pet — à l'air.

The greatest Part of mine have imagined that my sole Motive was to remedy those Inconveniencies and Defects, which take their Rise out of the Wranglings and Intricacy of the Law. Alas! I confess to you, and I have sometimes blushed to do it, that very far from having had such a Redress in my Thoughts, I regret the little Advantages that even Chicanery procured me; the Duties which have been since laid both on the Practice of the Courts, and on stampd Paper, having diminished my Revenues near five hundred thousand Livres. Do not, my dear Nephew, be offended at this word Justice; it has, like others, very different Significations, and is capable of being explained a thousand different Ways: read the Construction which I have put upon it: Justice is the Image of GOD, Who then can attain to such Perfection? Ought not a man very greatly to be commended, who leaves off all Thoughts of entirely comprehending it? Take a View of all the Countries in the World, and examine thoroughly, whether it be administered after the same Manner in any two Kingdoms. After this, I would have you compare the different Prin-

Principles by which Men conduct themselves through Life; and judge whether or no they agree with each other. What very extraordinary Thing then could it be thought, if a Man should lay down Rules of Justice for himself? I was once inclined to inspect the different Courts throughout my Kingdom, and soon found in them a vast Army of Civilians; all of whom were publicly reputed honest, yet much suspected otherwise. Each Tribunal had it's Superiour, and for my own Part, I had mine; as an Opposition was formed to the Decisions which were given by my Counsel. I cannot say I was much displeased, as it had been a Custom.* In examining what Progress Justice had made in my

* The Lawyers have at last dared to oppose their Monarch, and have often proved victorious. Under a weak Prince surrounded by Ministers either ignorant or avaritious, the Legislative Power takes the Lead, strengthens itself out of Love towards the People whose Cause it pretends most heartily to espouse; till by Degrees it rises to so high a Pitch of Extravagance, as fairly to pull down the Idol, to which it had but lately offered public Incense. Recollect only the well-contrived Plots of the French Parliaments. In Order to ease themselves from a Burden of Taxes; they aggravated their Misfortunes to their Monarch; they painted the State as running headlong to it's own Destruction; provoked

my States, or, to speak with more Propriety, in observing the monstrous Chicane of the Law encrease every Day more and more, and eat away the Property of all my good Subjects; I began to fear, lest in the End they should be swallowed up alive in these wreathy Whirlpools, or totally lost in the Labyrinths of Delusion. But what gave me the most Uneasiness was, so often to hear the Sound of that discordant String on which, Lawyers one and all, are perpetually harping; that Spirit of Liberty inseparable from their Principles; and to observe their peculiar Address in whatever tends to their own, or to the Advantage of their Party; and, in shamefully trampling over their Adversaries, by a shew of Equity
the

provoked the Rancour of their Enemies; rooted up the Seeds of Patriotism out of the Minds of loyal Subjects; and, last of all, seized upon the Government. Instead of doing Justice to the Unfortunate, who earnestly entreated them for Relief; they either dragged them at their Chariot-Wheels; or, having stript them of their Rags, sent them away hungry, to die upon their Dung-hills. All the French Philosophers were up in Arms against these open Depredations committed with Impunity, and exercised upon these wretched Beings: true it is, that the Justiciary Power in this Kingdom has been ever avaritious and depraved. Read "*the Chancellor of the Hospital,*" and you will soon be convinced.

the most severe. I have often called to Mind those spirited, yet whimsical Acts, of the French as well as of the English Parliament; and am astonished to find them so disgraceful, as they have sometimes been, to the Dignity of the Throne. In the midst of a thousand such like Reflections, I was determined within myself to sap the Foundation of this growing Power: and it was, by simplifying as much as possible, that I at last reduced it to the desired Point. You will perhaps be surprized, my dear Nephew, that those Gentry, who never bear Arms, nor ever speak but with Respect of the sacred Person of the King, should alone be in a Capacity to controul him. It is owing precisely to the same Reasons that they find no Difficulty in bounding our Power: for one cannot easily be brought to suspect them of the least Violence, since they never speak of us but with the highest Regard; and our Subjects are almost instantly wrought upon by this persuasive Eloquence, which seems to have no other End in View, than their own Happiness, and the Glory of our Kingdom. I have often reflected on the Advantages which a Kingdom might derive to itself, from a Body

of Men who represent the Nation, and to whom is entrusted the Care of it's Laws: I even think that a King would be surer of his Crown, when it is either presented or secured to him by such Hands; but he must be an honest Man indeed, and of sound Principle, whose Actions will bear to be every Moment examined.

In such a Case, was he to have any Ambition; he must be obliged to renounce it: for my Part, I should have done nothing at all, had I been in the least Degree constrained. I might perhaps have been looked upon as a just Prince, but I should have been refused the Title of a Hero.

Let me observe that a Monarch is oftener exposed to the Vicissitudes of Fortune than a Despotic Prince; yet a Despotic Prince should still be active, knowing, and resolute. It requires more Virtue to shine in the Character of a Despotic Prince, than in that of a Monarch: the latter of whom is indeed flattered by his Courtiers, who will encourage his Vices, and deceive him; but a Slave will yet do more: he will pay Homage, will prostrate, will make himself contemptible; and all this
to

to aggrandize his Lord : for a great Man then to reign like a Despotic Prince is more beneficial to himself, and does very much conduce to his own Ease ; yet is still proportionably tormenting to all who live under his Government.

THE FOURTH MORNING.

Of Policy.

AS it is agreed among Men, that to deceive our Fellow-Creatures is an Action both criminal and ungenerous ; so they have been obliged to look out for such a Term as might in some Degree palliate and conceal their Intention, and have at last fixed on the Word *Policy*. This Word would, doubtless, never have been coined but with a View of gaining the Royal Favour : since we cannot, with any Decency, confer upon each other, the base Titles of Rogues and Cheats. Be this as it
D will;

will; I shall, notwithstanding, lay before you my real Sentiments on the Subject. I mean by Policy, my dear Nephew, that every Man should, if possible, over-reach his Neighbour: it is a Method by which one may either gain some Advantage, or at least put ourselves upon an equal Footing with the Rest of the World. For you may be fully persuaded that all States and Potentates on Earth are running the same Career; nay, that it is the grand Point, which the whole World, great and small, are aiming at, though in Secret. Now this Principle being once laid down, you ought never to be ashamed of entering into any Alliances, of which you can reap the sole Advantage. Do not be guilty of a gross Mistake, in not immediately breaking them off whenever your Interest leads you to it: but above all Things let the following Maxim be with Spirit supported, that to plunder the neighbouring States is only taking from them the Means of doing you any farther Mischief. To speak without Evasion, Policy alone has founded Kingdoms, and does still preserve them; thus, my dear Nephew, I would have you thoroughly to understand, and conceive
this

this Affair in it's trueſt and moſt extenſive Light. For this End we divide it into *State*-, and *private Policy*. The firſt regards only the general Interests of the Kingdom; the ſecond has Reſpect to the particular Interests of Princes.

Of private Policy.

A Prince ſhould never ſuffer himſelf to appear in Public, but to the beſt Advantage: and this is what I would have you ſeriously to conſider. While I was Heir Apparent, I had little of the Soldier in me; I conſulted my own Eaſe, was fond of good Eating, and a chearful Glaſs; and in Affairs of Love I had often both Hands employed. But no ſooner was I made King than I immediately put on the Soldier, the Philoſopher, and the Poet: I lay on Straw; I eat Ammunition-Bread at the Head of my Camp; I drank little before my Subjects; and appeared to deſpiſe the Women. Obſerve how I conduct myſelf in all my Actions. On my Journies I always march without a Guard, and travel Night and Day; my Retinue is ſmall, but

well chosen; my Carriage quite plain, but in Return for this, it is excellently hung; and I sleep in it as soundly as I should do in my Bed. I seem to give myself no Sort of Trouble about my Manner of Living: one Servant in waiting, another to dress Meat, and a third for Pastry, furnish the whole of my travelling Equipage. I even order my own Dinner, and this is not the Thing I have the least Skill in neither, since I am well acquainted with the Country; and whatever I demand, whether Game, Fish, or Butcher's-Meat, it is always the best that can be procured. When I stop at any Place on the Road, I always alight with an Air of great Fatigue; and shew myself to the People just as I am, in a paltry threadbare Coat, and a Wig that has not a Curl in it. These are the mere Nothings that often make the most striking Impression. I give Audience to all the World, Priests, Ministers, and Monks excepted; for as such Sort of Folks speak commonly at a Distance, I hear them from my Window: a Page receives 'em, and makes 'em my Compliment at the Gate. In all my Conversations, I affect Nothing less than to have the Good of my Subjects perpetually

petually at Heart. I ask Questions both of Noblemen, Citizens, and Mechanics, and I enter with them into the most particular Enquiries. You know, my dear Nephew, as well as I, the scurvy Compliments that are usually paid us by such Kind of Gentry. You may perhaps remember who it was that told me I must be very good indeed, to give myself any farther Trouble, after having carried on the War so long; or recollect the Fellow's Name, whose Heart was so deeply affected on seeing the shabby Coat I wore, and my Table very indifferently furnished. The poor Creature never dreamt of the rich Suit I had underneath; and thought it impossible one should even live without a Ham and a Quarter of Veal for Dinner.

On a Review of my Troops, before my coming up with the Regiment, I carefully read over the Names of all the Officers and Serjeants; of which I retain perhaps three or four, together with those of their respective Companies. I am very minutely informed of all the little Grievances my Captains may have committed: and suffer each of the Soldiers to lay before me his Complaints. The Hour appointed

pointed for the Review being come, I leave my House: the Populace presently surround me; nor do I suffer them to be dispersed: but talk in a free easy Manner with whoever happens to stand next me, and gives the most pertinent Answers. Having joined the Regiment, I give the Word, and they immediately begin to exercise: in the mean Time I pass leisurely thro' all the Ranks, and have a Word or two with all the Captains. When I happen to stand over against those I have recollected since my reading over the Roll, I address each of them by his proper Name; as I do likewise all the Lieutenants and Serjeants. From this I am looked upon as a Man of uncommon Memory and Reflection. You saw, my dear Nephew, how I mortified a Major, who had fitted out his Company with Shirts that were too short. I managed the Affair so dexterously, that one of the Soldiers had the Impudence to take his Shirt from his Breeches. If a Regiment exercise in a slovenly Manner, my Method of punishing is to make them repeat it thirteen Days successively: during which, not one of the Officers are suffered to come near my Table: but if they go through their Evolutions

tions with great Facility, I make all the Captains eat with me, and perhaps some Lieutenants likewise.

By this Method of Review, I am intimately informed both of the Strength and Discipline of my Troops: and when I meet with an Officer, who returns me a smart resolute Answer; I set down his Name in my Catalogue, and make Use of him whenever I find Occasion. At present all the World imagines that it is the Love I bear towards my Subjects which makes me visit my different States as often as I can get an Opportunity of doing it: let the World rest in the Opinion it has received; but for my own Part, this Motive takes up the least of my Thoughts: the Thing is, I am obliged to do it; and the Reason briefly this. My Kingdom is despotic; and consequently whoever is in Possession of it must take the entire Charge upon himself. If I neglect going regularly on these Visitations, the Governors I have appointed would endeavour to undermine and usurp me, and by Degrees throw off the Principles of Obedience, in Order to adopt the more pleasing ones of Independence.

Moreover, since my Commands can be no other than peremptory and absolute; my Representatives think themselves sufficiently authorized to affect their Monarch in this Tone of Tyranny: whereas, on the contrary, by thus visiting my Dominions from Time to Time, I am in a Capacity of discovering the Abuses which are committed by those to whom the several Powers are entrusted; and of restraining within the Bounds of Duty all who are impatient of the least Controul. Add to these Reasons that of making my Subjects believe I come amongst them for no other End, than to redress their Grievances and alleviate their Misfortunes.

Of polite Literature.

I have done every Thing in my Power to be thought a Man of Taste and Learning; and have been happier in this Respect than Cardinal Richlieu; for now, thank GOD, I have the Name of an Author: yet, among ourselves, let me tell you, that these choice Spirits are a cursed Crew altogether; a Set of Men whose Vanity is insupportable: who are
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swollen with Pride; who despise the Great, yet covet Grandeur: are highly self-opinionated; implacable Enemies, and inconstant Friends: insipid in their Conversation, and of so whimsical a Cast, as to be, one Hour, scarcely better than flattering Buffoons; the next, replete with the most virulent Satire. They are, notwithstanding, necessary Implements for a Despotic Prince, and one whose Heart is fixed on Glory. Honours are still at their Disposal: without them no solid Reputation can be acquired. We must, therefore, out of mere Necessity, countenance and caress; and, from Motives of Policy, reward them. As Writing is among those Employments which take one off from such as are of more Importance, and worthy of a Throne; I never compose but when I have Nothing better to amuse me: and in Order to save myself some little Trouble, I take Care to have always a few of these Men of Genius at Court, whose Province is to dispose and methodize my Thoughts. You cannot but have observed the remarkable Distinction I have shewn Mr. d'Alembert on his late Expedition.

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pedition. I have made him constantly sit down with me at Table: and done Nothing else but commend him. You even appeared not a little surprized, to see the great Veneration I paid this Author. You must then be unacquainted in what vast Repute that Philosopher is holden; that he is revered at Paris as an Oracle; that he never utters a Word but in Commendation of my Talents, and of my Virtues; and that he maintains throughout, the Dignity of my Character as a true Hero and a great King. Besides, Commendation is in itself so bewitching and resistless, that, when dressed in all the Ornaments of Wit and Delicacy, a Man must be utterly devoid of both, whose Ear is not ravished with the Harmony of her Voice, and whose Heart is not led away a willing Captive to her Charms. I am very sensible it is not from my own Actions I should look out for Praise; yet d'Alembert is so sweet a Fellow while he sits beside me, that he never opens his Mouth without saying the most obliging Things in the World. Voltaire was of a different Stamp, so I dismissed him; I made a Merit of this
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to Maupertuis, but to tell the Truth, I was afraid of him at the Bottom: since it might not always be in my Power to make the usual Presents; and I perfectly understood that for one Crown less, I should receive from him gratis *six hundred Lashes*. Besides, all Things well considered, and with the Advice of my Academy, it has been resolved that no two Men of Learning and Ingenuity could long breath the same Air. I forgot to tell you, that in the midst of my greatest Misfortunes, I have taken all imaginable Care, their Pensions were duly paid. War being transformed, by these Philosophers, into a frightful bloody Monster, the Moment their Purse begins to suffer from it.

(Of Policy) In a few particulars.

Have you a Mind to know how to please all the World, at a very little Expence? The Secret is this: Permit your Subjects personally to address, and hold a direct Correspondence

with you. When they have done this; either give Audience, or an immediate Answer. Let the Style of your Letters be as follows: *If what you say 'be true, I will do you Justice: but shudder at the Thought that Calumny and Lies go not unpunished. I am your King Frederic.*

Whoever come to lay their Complaints before you; hear them with Attention, or at least with an Appearance of it. Let your Answer be Laconic, and to the Purpose. A Couple of Letters after this Manner, with two Answers in the same Style would prevent your being pestered for the future with any more of their tedious nonsensical Quarrels; and will give you, both at Home and Abroad, such an Air of Simplicity and Exactness, as is sufficient to establish the Reputation of Princes. I know, my dear Nephew, that for two such Letters, sent into Countries the French took Possession of in 1757; I was there looked upon as the most popular, the most upright, and the most equitable King, ever seated upon a Throne.

In Dress.

If my Grandfather had lived but twenty Years longer, we should have been all ruined: the Celebration of his Birth-Day would have made a Famine in the Kingdom. For my own Part, I never wear any Thing besides my Regimentals: and the Soldiers think that this is done wholly out of a Regard for their Welfare; but Example only is the true Motive. It was a good Thought in my Father to have their Uniform blue, for the Sake of Ornament. While one is not very rich, but yet at the same Time very desirous of being dressed to Advantage; one should take Care not to be tricked out in Silk-Bindings. Embroidery of every Kind with all other useless Ornaments either of Gold or Silver should be left to Princes luxurious and effeminate; whose Lives are a public Scene of Dissipation and Debauchery. There is an absolute Necessity for these disgusting Triflers to provide, each Day, some newly-invented and far-fetched Refinements, that they may please the Women; which alone constitutes the mighty Business of their Lives.

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In Pleasures.

Mankind, without Exception, are Votaries to Love. If for once you should be so lucky as to elude his Dart, the Danger will not then be over; his Bow is bent a second Time: he only takes the surer Aim for being thus repulsed. Never have the Vanity to oppose him; believe me, you must yield at last. Though I cannot complain much of the Tricks he has played me, yet I would by no Means have you follow my Example: the most pernicious Consequences might ensue from it. Your Officers and Commanders would by Degrees recruit in so careless and indolent a Manner, as to make your own Glory and the great Interests of your Kingdom subservient to their private Pleasures; and thus your Army would be at Length reduced to the same miserable Condition, with the Troops of your Uncle Henry. I should have been fond of Hunting: but the vast Expence your Grand-Sire was at, in maintaining his great Huntsman, has taught me better. My Father has
said

saïd a hundred Times, that there were not two Kings in Europe able to go through the Charge which necessarily attends a Stag-Hunt: it being quite out of Character for a crowned Head, to follow his Hounds like a Country-Esquire. I am naturally of a very social Disposition, and love good Cheer; Wine, Coffee, and now and then a *Cordial*: yet my Subjects think there is not a more sober Man in the World. When I dine in Public I take Care to provide a German Cook; but when alone, I have always a French Cook, who does all he can to serve me: and I freely confess, I am not easily pleased. Philosophers have said pleasantly enough, that one cannot do better than throw away a Couple of Hours every Day upon the Senses: and pray let me ask, what would be our Existence without them? I am moderately fond of Gaming: but have not yet brought myself to lose. Play is indeed the Mirror of the Soul: a Thing that does not always answer my Purpose; because, with Respect to my own, I am not over solicitous to have it peeped into at all. Public Entertainments, and especially Music, are my

chief Delight. I find however the Opera to be an expensive Diversion : and as for the Pleasure I receive from a fine Voice, or a good Fiddle, it would be greatly enhanced; if the Prices were not so extravagant. As every Body has seen this Piece of Luxury in it's true Light, I did all I could to persuade them it was both useful and necessary. But my veteran Commanders have never yet been willing to allow, that an Opera-Girl or Musician should be put on an equal Footing, or have the same Appointments, with themselves. You have here before you, my dear Nephew, the true Picture of a Man, even at his own Expence. Believe me, he is ever under the Dominion of his Passions; he takes a Pride in Self-Love; and all his Virtues have no other Foundation than his own Interest and his own Ambition. Would you be thought a Hero? Boldly venture-at a Crime. Would you be thought a Sage ? Disguise yourself with Art.

THE

THE FIFTH MORNING.

Of State-Policy.

THE Policy of a State may be resolved into three Principles: first, to be perfectly secure at Home, and avail itself of every Circumstance that may contribute to it's Grandeur; secondly, to enter into no Alliances that will not turn out to it's Advantage; and thirdly, to make itself both feared and respected even in Times of public Despondency.

The first Principle.

The first Business, on my Accession to the Throne, was to inspect the Treasury; and to know in what Condition my Father had left
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it. His vast Economy furnished me with Hopes of carrying into Execution some great Designs. Not long after, I took a Review of my Troops; which made a very magnificent Appearance: I then went again into my Treasury, and drew from it as much as I found sufficient to double the Force, of which I was already Master. But I had no sooner done this, than it was very natural for me to launch out a little, and grow discontented with my present Situation; I accordingly soon came to a Determination with myself not to let slip the first favourable Opportunity. In the mean Time my Troops observed the most regular Discipline: and I left Nothing undone to have the Eyes of all Europe fixed on these military Operations; which I repeated every Year, in Order to appear more expert and knowing. I at last gained my Point, and became the Object of general Attention. All the World adopted my Plan, and were to the last Degree miserable; till they had learnt how to move their Arms, Feet, and Head, after the Prussian Manner. From this Time, there was not a Soldier or Officer in my Army who
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did not rise as high again at least in his own Esteem; when they found themselves universally imitated.

While my Troops were thus superiour to all others, I became wholly employed in examining the Pretensions I was able to make to several different Provinces. Four principal Points offered themselves to View: *Silesia*; *Polish-Prussia*; *Dutch-Guelders*; and *Swedish Pomerania*. I fixed upon *Silesia*, as an Object that seemed best to deserve my Attention, on Account of several very favourable Circumstances; and shall leave, to Time only, the Care of executing the Schemes I have formed concerning the others. I shall not here demonstrate the Validity of my Pretensions to this Province: let this be the Employment of my Lawyers. These the Empress Queen has however opposed by her own; and the Affair has been at last determined by the irresistible Eloquence of Cannon, and the Clash of Arms. But let us return to the Circumstances, and to the Order in which they succeeded each other.

France conceived a Design of removing the Empire from the House of Austria. I could not have desired better Sport. France took Part with a Son-of-Spain in Italy: I was quite delighted; well knowing that it could not be done but at the Expence of the Queen. France, after this, formed a glorious Scheme for marching to the Gates of Vienna: where I attended her, that I might make myself Master of Silesia. Have but the Money, my dear Nephew, and avail yourself of Circumstances; and you may rest assured not only of being perfectly secure at Home, but of enlarging the Borders of your Kingdom. They are but indifferent Politicians who pretend that a State, after having once arrived at a certain Point, ought not to think of aggrandizing itself farther; merely because their System of a Balance, which gives to each Power it's present Boundary, will not admit of it. I well remember how necessary it was, during the Reign of Lewis the Fourteenth, that France should pay dear for the Ambition of her Monarch; and I know too the Uneasiness I have suffered from my own. Besides,

I am not ignorant that France, while at the lowest Ebb of Power, gave away a Crown; and continued to preserve the Provinces she had conquered: but you have just now seen, that in the very Height of the Tempest which seemed inevitably to portend my Ruin; I came off unhurt. Thus does every Thing depend on Circumstances, and the Courage of him who can best turn them to his Advantage.

You will scarcely believe, my dear Nephew, of what Importance it is both to a King and to a State, that they should now and then strike out of the common Road: and it is only by the Marvellous one can thus impose on the World, and get one's self a Name. Under the Notion of a Balance, the whole World has been brought into Subjection; imagining that wherever a Thing of this Nature takes Place, a constant Possession is thereby secured. Yet it is in Reality Nothing but a Word; all Europe being considered as a Family, in which are to be met with indifferent Brothers, and unkind Relations. I say further, my dear Nephew, that it is by de-

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spising this System, we must rise to Greatness. Observe the English: they have fettered the Ocean. That proud Element dares no longer transport a Vessel, without their Permission.

It follows from hence, that one ought always to make the Attempt: and be fully persuaded that every Thing will turn out as we could wish. It is necessary only to be upon our Guard, not to insist too strongly, or with too great Ostentation, on our Claims: but above all Things, I would advise, that you encourage two or three such Men as are remarkable for their Eloquence; admit them to Court, and let it be their Business to justify your Pretensions.

The second Principle.

It is an uncontroverted Point in Politics, that a State should enter into no Engagements, that would not turn out to it's Advantage: and indeed no Power whatever can be sufficiently authorized to neglect so general a Maxim. One Consequence deducible
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from hence is, — That Alliances should be dissolved, when they are found prejudicial. In my first War with the Queen, I purposely deserted the French at Prague; having gained Silesia in Exchange; but should I have conducted them to Vienna, they would not have made me so ample a Recompence. A few Years after, I renewed my League with them; having at that Time some Thoughts of attempting the Conquest of Bohemia; and being obliged, on several Accounts, to keep fair with this great Power. I have since, however, overlooked them; my Interest requiring me to be on good Terms with another Nation, which has made by far more advantageous Proposals. When Prussia, my dear Nephew, has once made her Fortune, she may then put on an Air of Uprightness and Sincerity: for this, it is true, cannot long be preserved, except by Nations already raised to Greatness; or by States, which are scarcely above Dependence. It is equally true, my dear Nephew, that Knavery and Politics go Hand in Hand: you may generally substitute the one for the other. There are People,

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notwithstanding, whose Intentions are upright, and whose Actions are conformable to their Intentions. Thus you may venture to hazard every Thing with your Ambassadors. I have myself met with some of these, who would not be guilty of what they thought a mean Action; and yet, in Order to discover some secret Designs, have not even scrupled to search the Pockets of a King.

Above all Things, strive to make Friends of those who have the peculiar Faculty of delivering their Sentiments in a loose, ambiguous, or contradictory Manner. Nor will you do amiss in procuring some noted Quacks in Policy, who can, at any Time, give the People a Dose; and some ingenious Pick-Locks, who, in Case of Necessity, can open the best contrived Cabinets in Europe. They will often do you the most important Service. Experience has already convinced me of their Use.

The third Principle.

To be respected and feared by the surrounding Nations is the utmost Reach of Policy. The Means by which we attain this End is first; to have a real Force, which is at all Times the most useful Expedient; and, in the second Place, that we know how to apply what we are already Masters of, to the best Advantage. The former of these is not our Case; and I have taken all necessary Steps to acquire a Knowledge of the latter, for the following Reasons. There are some Powers who have been led to imagine that whoever is sent on an Embassy should always make his public Entry with Pomp and Magnificence. Mr. de Richlieu, during the Time of his Residence at Vienna, did Nothing in Fact but ridicule the French in his own Person; since the Austrians could not help thinking that the whole Nation had as much at least of the *Monkey* and the *Musk*, as he who had the Honour to represent them.

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For my own Part, I esteem it of far greater Importance that an Ambassador should speak in Terms worthy of his Master, than to be respected only for a Train of rich Attendants: it is on this Account I never send any one to a foreign Court in Quality of Ambassador, but only as an Envoy. Besides, the former of these is a Character very difficult to support; since it requires a Man to be not only the first both in Rank and Fortune; but to be a perfect Politician likewise: when, for an Envoy, the last of these Qualifications is alone sufficient. By adopting such a System as this, you will save annually very considerable Sums; nor will your Affairs, in Relation to the Embassy, turn out the less successful. There are after all, my dear Nephew, some Occasions when it is proper to be represented with Magnificence and Splendor: where there is an Intention, for Instance, either of breaking, or of making an Alliance, with any Court; or of an Union by Blood. These Embassies should always be looked upon as Something extraordinary, in Order the more securely to impose on our Neighbours. Never make your

Proposals faintly : chuse rather to exact them. However, if you should happen to be disappointed, overlook the Injury 'till the very Moment presents itself of receiving the most complete Satisfaction : fear least of all a Retaliation ; your Glory will not be eclipsed by it : your Subjects only are to be pitied, who may perhaps too fatally feel it's Effects. The true Point is this : that the neighbouring States be fully persuaded that you stick at Nothing ; that Nothing can intimidate you : endeavour to appear in their Eyes as one whom it is dangerous to affront ; as a Person bound by no other Principles than those which lead to Glory. Convince them beyond all Dispute, that you would sooner destroy two entire Kingdoms than have a single Blank in the Diary of Fame ; which registers every great Exploit as a Wonder to Posterity. These are Sentiments which discover an uncommon Penetration, and do at once strike and astonish the Generality of Mankind ; and this excentric Mode of thinking has alone produced the greatest Monarch in the World.

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When a Stranger makes his Appearance at your Court, shew him every Kind of Civility; and, above all Things, take Care to have him always in your Presence: by this you will, in some Measure, be able to conceal the Defects of your Government. If he be a military Man; make the Regiment of Guards exercise before him; and I could wish you would put yourself in Person at their Head. If he be a Man of Genius, and an Author; let him see his Works lying carelessly on your Table; and be sure speak in Commendation of his Talents. If he be a Merchant; listen to him with Candour and Complacency: caress him; and, if possible, try to fix him with you.

T H E E N D.